

CAMPAIGN FINANCE DIVISION

☒ **WAIVER REQUEST**
☐ **RECONSIDERATION REQUEST**

DATE: 3/24/2020
DOCKET #:

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Gerald Chelette
Office: Sheriff
Parish: GRANT
Election Date: 10/12/2019
Level of Office: District

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: 10-G
Original Due Date: 11/6/2019
Date Filed: 1/24/2020
Activity Receipts: \$-0
Expenditures: \$-0
Funds at Close of Reporting Period: \$-0

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$2,000
Days Late: 79
Late Fee Order Received: 2/7/2020
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 2/27/2020
Waiver Request Received: 2/21/2020
Additional Information Requested:
- Medical
XX - Financial - See 30-P for Waiver Documentation Request
- Other

COMMENTS:

Gerald Chelette request a waiver and states the following: He didn't understand this process and the timeline to do certain things. He attempted many times to call the LA Board of Ethics for assistance, but never got a returned call. He is a retired disabled veteran of Special Forces as a Senior Intelligence Sergeant. He has custody and is raising of his four children on a military retirement of \$2,132.77 a month. Paying these fines would be a hardship on him and his family. He is also a full time student at Natchitoches earning his criminal justice degree.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Campaign Finance:

Other Outstanding Reports: No
Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No
Reassessed Late Fees: No

Disclosure Statements:

Other Outstanding Late Fees: No
Prior Late Fees: No

February 18, 2020

State of Louisiana
Department of Civil Service
Louisiana Board of Ethics
PO Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600

RE: Late fee assessment for the October 12, 2019 Election 10-P Campaign Finance Disclosure
Report filed 114 days late

Dear Louisiana Board of Ethics,

I am writing to dispute the late fee assessment. I have attempted many times to call the Louisiana Board of Ethics, left voice mails for assistance in understanding the process of what was expected of me. I never got a return call, ever. I even went to the Clerk of Court in Colfax, Louisiana, and they assisted me to the best of their ability, which I am grateful for. I did not understand this process and the timeline to do certain things. When I did call, the personnel on your end was just rude and unprofessional. I know that isn't helping my case any, and they probably go through hundreds of calls a day, but it is no excuse for lacking tact when someone like me calls and gets treated like a second-class citizen.

I am a retired military veteran that started my career in the 82nd Airborne Division and completed my service in the Special Forces as a Senior Intelligence Sergeant. I have eleven combat tours and am a disabled veteran. Upon my last combat deployment, I was coming home from Afghanistan, and my wife got killed in a vehicle accident coming to pick me up from the airport. I was left raising our 4yo and 2yo daughters on my own. That was on January 10, 2011. I now have two sons also, a 2yo and a 1yo. I have custody of my four children and am raising them on my military retirement of \$2,132.77 a month retirement check. I am well below the poverty line in Louisiana, yet I make it work without the aid of government assistance, even though I'm qualified for it. Paying a \$2,000 fine would be a hardship on me and my family as it is almost 1/10th of what I make per year.

My ambition to run for Sheriff of Grant Parish is simple. My younger brother Michael Chelette was killed in a vehicle accident on July 3, 2019 in Montgomery, Louisiana. I could see my wife's grave from where he died at. I was one of the first people on the scene and the deputies there laughed and joked over his body. I was livid over their lack of professionalism. Plus, my tax dollars were used by the Sheriff's Office in Grant Parish for patrol cars to put re-election signs in people's yards and to recover them after the election was over. I ran for Sheriff, so shouldn't the deputies have put my campaign signs up and recovered them also with my tax dollars that funds them? No. The corruption and unprofessionalism here drove me to run for Sheriff not knowing all the ins and outs of what I was getting myself into. This being one of them.

REC'D CIVIL SERVICE
FEB 21 2020

On top of everything else I have going on in my life, I am also a student at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana where I am currently in my Senior year pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice at 50 years old, well over twice the age of the average student enrolled there. The duties of finishing my degree and raising a family can be overwhelming at times, but I am determined to succeed at both without fail. If I am required to stand in front of a judge, I am prepared to walk the 160 miles from my residence in Grant Parish to have my case heard. I may be disabled, but I am not incapable. I only request I be given a week notice so that I can make it on time on foot. Therefore, I respectfully request that this fee be dismissed so I can move forward with my life and not have a financial disruption that will affect me nor my children in any adverse way.



v/r

Gerald Chelette
SFC (Retired)
United States Army
1165 McKay Circle
Montgomery, LA 71454
(318) 471-8954

Cc:

Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards
State Capitol
P.O. Box 94004
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9004

State of Louisiana
Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
PO Box 94005
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9005

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

March 24, 2020

Gerald Chelette
1165 McKay Cir.
Montgomery, LA 71454-5649

RE: Ethics Board Docket No.: 2020

Dear Gerald Chelette:

You recently requested a waiver of the late fee assessed against you for filing your campaign finance disclosure report late in connection with the October 12, 2019 election. In the request, you stated that you paying the fines would be a financial hardship you and your family. If you would like the Board to consider your financially situation, you must provide documentation verifying your claim. Please provide a summary of your monthly expenses (rent/mortgage, utilities, loans, etc.), last six months' bank statement or latest income tax returns. The information you provide will only be reviewed by the Ethics Board.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at the above number.

Please submit the documentation to the above address by **April 24, 2020**.

Sincerely,

Melissa Horn

Gerald Chelette
1165 McKay Circle
Montgomery, LA 71454

PLACE STICKER AT TOP OF ENVELOPE TO THE RIGHT
OF THE RETURN ADDRESS, FOLD AT DOTTED LINE

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State of Louisiana
Department of Civil Service
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368

Baton Rouge, LA 70821
7082134368 8033

